the capital envisaged is Rs. 12525.12 crore for PSUs. Out of this the proposed capital investment for the year 2006-07 is Rs. 3640.79 crores.

(c) From the production level of 323.93 Mt. in 2002-03, a quantum jump of around 16 Mt. has been achieved to reach 340.51 Mt. in 2003-04. In 2004-05 coal companies have surpassed the target of 349 Mt, and has produced 358.88 Mt., while in the year 2005-06 against the target of 381.81 Mt. the achievement has been 379.50 Mt. recording a quantum jump of above 20 Mt. over the production of previous financial year. The Tenth Plan terminal year production target has been increased further by about 20 Mt. to produce 401.30 Mt. in 2006-07 as against its earlier projection of 386.13 Mt. Apart from Public Sector Undertakings, captive blocks are also expected to contribute to increase in coal production in the country.

Allocation of Bisrar coal block for thermal power station in Chhattisgarh

†3496. SHRIMOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Chhattisgarh had sought allocation of Bisrar coal block for proposed 2x660 MW thermal power station at Sargiya (Bhaiyathan) last year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision to allocate Bisrar coal block for the said power station had been taken by Government in April, 2005;

(c) if so, by when the formal information would be conveyed to Government of Chhattisgarh in this regard and the reasons for delay in communicating the same; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that work on this project is not hampered due to delay in allocation of Bisrar coal block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board (CSEB), an undertaking of the Government of Chhattisgarh, has been allocated the Gidhmuri and Paturia coal blocks for their 2x500 MW proposed power plant at Bhaiyathan in Chhattisgarh. Subsequently CSEB

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

had requested for allotment of Bisrar coal block stating that they have revised the capacity of their proposed power plant from 2x500 MW to 2x660 MW and the two blocks of Gidhmuri and Paturia will not be able to meet the coal requirement of the revised capacity.

(b) and (c) The request of M/s CSEB was considered by the Screening Committee constituted for the purpose of allocation of coal blocks for captive mining in their meetings held on 15.04.2005 and 18.10.2005. On examination the Screening Committee found that considering the quality of coal, coal reserves in the Gidhmuri and Paturia coal blocks would be sufficient to meet the coal requirement for 1320 MW proposed power project for 30 years and shortage, if any, would be marginal and linkage could be taken to meet such shortage. This was informed to the representative of the Government of Chhattisgarh in the meeting dated 18.10.2005.

(d) Since Gidhmuri and Paturia coal blocks for the project have already been allocated to M/s CSEB, the work on the proposed project would not be hampered due to non-availability of coal.

Reforms in coal sector

3497. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has put forward a number of proposals to kick start reforms in the coal sector;

(b) whether it is also a fact that one of the proposals is to give coal sector the infrastructure status;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has recommended amending the Mines Act, to allow coal blocks to private parties;

(d) if so, the details thereon; and

(e) what are the other proposals put forward by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) The Planning Commission has made